

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ELIAS STAVRINIDES,
Plaintiff,

v.

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC
COMPANY,
Defendant.

Case No. 15-cv-03118-KAW

NOTICE REGARDING RESOURCES
AVAILABLE TO PRO SE LITIGANTS

Since you are representing yourself in this case, the Court issues this notice to you about legal resources available, the rules you need to follow, and the legal standard that applies to summary judgment motions.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

1. **Pro Se Handbook:** The district court's has produced a guide for pro se litigants called *Representing Yourself in Federal Court: A Handbook for Pro Se Litigants*, which provides instructions on how to proceed at every stage of your case, including discovery, motions, and trial. It is available electronically online (<http://cand.uscourts.gov/prosehandbook>) or in hard copy free of charge from the Clerk's Office.
2. **Federal Pro Bono Project's Help Desk:** Make an appointment to speak with an attorney who may be able to provide basic legal assistance, but not representation. Call (415) 782-8982 to schedule an appointment. They do not accommodate drop-ins.

RULES OF THE COURT

Here are some basic rules of which you should be aware. These rules, and others, are discussed in detail in the Pro Se Handbook. Therefore, this is not an exhaustive list, and you should refer to the Handbook for additional rules of court.

- 1 **1. Civil Local Rules:** In addition to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the district court has its
2 own set of Civil Local Rules which must be followed. The Civil Local Rules are available
3 online at <http://cand.uscourts.gov/localrules/civil>.
- 4 **2. Standing Orders:** Each judge also has their own set of standing orders, which must be
5 followed in the cases assigned to them. The undersigned's standing orders are available online
6 at <http://cand.uscourts.gov/kaworders>. Specifically, the General Standing Order provides
7 clarification on many topics, including how and when to schedule hearings, the format for
8 chambers copies of all filings, discovery, and how to communicate with the court.
- 9 **3. Consent and Declination process:** Cases in this district are directly assigned to magistrate
10 judges when they are filed, but in order for me to continue to preside over your case from
11 filing to final judgment, all parties must consent to my jurisdiction. What this means is that
12 you have to file a form and formally consent to my presiding over your case, and acknowledge
13 that any appeal of final judgment will be directly to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, just as
14 it would if a district judge presided over your case. The form is available online at
15 http://cand.uscourts.gov/filelibrary/1335/MJ_Consent-Declination_Form_Jan2014.pdf. If
16 you have any questions or need any assistance, please call Susan Imbriani, my courtroom
17 deputy, at (510) 637-3525, and she will go over the process with you and send you a copy of
18 the form if necessary.
- 19 **4. Electronic Filing:** If you have regular access to a computer, the internet, and an email address,
20 you may satisfy the technical requirement for e-filing, which will allow you to file documents
21 online instead of submitting hard copies to the Clerk's Office. For more information, and to
22 download a sample motion that you may submit for court approval, visit
23 <http://cand.uscourts.gov/ECF/proseregistration>. You must obtain court approval to e-file.

SUMMARY JUDGMENT

25 No motion for summary judgment has been filed in your case, but this explains the process
26 if a motion is filed:

27 If the other party in this case files a motion for summary judgment, that motion— if
28 granted—will result in the dismissal of your case. Generally, summary judgment must be granted

1 when there is no genuine issue of material fact for trial. What that means is that if there is no real
2 dispute about any fact that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary
3 judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which ends your case.

4 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion
5 for summary judgment. When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary judgment that
6 is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony),¹ you cannot just rely on what
7 your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers
8 to interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts
9 in Defendant's declarations and documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact
10 for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, the Court might— if it is
11 appropriate— enter summary judgment against you and in favor of the other party.

12 If the Court grants summary judgment in favor of the other party, your case will be
13 dismissed, and there will be no trial. *See Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en
14 banc). You should read Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56 and *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S.
15 317 (1986) (which discusses how the party who opposes summary judgment must come forward
16 with evidence showing triable issues of material fact on every essential element of his claim).

17 **Failure to file an opposition:** If you do not file your opposition, the Court will still
18 consider whether summary judgment is appropriate under Rule 56, but your failure may be
19 construed as consent by you to this Court's granting the other party's motion for summary
20 judgment. *See* Judge Westmore's General Standing Order ¶ 22 ("The failure of the opposing party
21 to file a memorandum of points and authorities in opposition to any motion shall constitute
22 consent to the granting of the motion.") That in turn may result in the dismissal of your case

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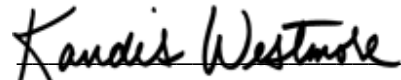
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25 _____
26 ¹ A declaration is a statement of facts. The person making the declaration must know those facts
27 personally, and they must be facts that can be admitted into evidence. That means that they must
28 be facts as opposed to conclusions, argument, opinion, or inadmissible hearsay. A declaration
must be made under penalty of perjury, which means that the person making the declaration must
sign it and date the declaration after the following statement: "I declare under penalty of perjury
that the foregoing is true and correct. Dated _____. Signed _____."

1 before trial. *See Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (per curiam); *Brydges v.*
2 *Lewis*, 18 F.3d 651, 653 (9th Cir. 1994).

3 IT IS SO ORDERED.

4 Dated: July 9, 2015

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6 KANDIS A. WESTMORE
7 United States Magistrate Judge
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4 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
5 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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7 ELIAS STAVRINIDES,
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10 PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC
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11 Defendant.

Case No. 15-cv-03118-KAW

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

12 I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S.
13 District Court, Northern District of California.

14 That on July 9, 2015, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing
15 said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by
16 depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery
17 receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

18 Elias Stavrinides
19 11041 Main Street, Ste 511238
20 Penngrove, CA 94951

21 Dated: July 9, 2015
22

23 Richard W. Wieking
24 Clerk, United States District Court

25 By: Cynthia J. Lenahan
26 Cynthia Lenahan, Deputy Clerk to the
27 Honorable KANDIS A. WESTMORE
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